Daniel Macedo

AP US History

Summer Assignment

1. Capitalism is an economic system that is based on the incentives of individuals, companies, etc. to make a profit in a competitive market (usually) by selling goods, materials or services to consumers in which the prices are determined by supply and demand in a free market. The capitalist system also consists of the privatization of the means of production by a corporation or the capitalist class, who receive the profit. The working class receives wages by providing a service of some kind to the enterprise or corporation they work for.
2. The United States practices Anglo- American capitalism is a result mainly of a meeting of delegates from 40 nations to rebuild the international economic system after WWII in which America and Britain emerged as the dominant forces of the meeting. In this system private ownership and free enterprise are stressed instead of government intervention and nationalized industry an important part of Anglo- American capitalism also.
3. Capitalism wasn’t instituted by the founding fathers but was a naturally fit for the nation because the Declaration of Independence states that people are endowed with the right to, “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” and the capitalist economic system is based on the private ownership of goods, recourses, property, and people pursuing financial opportunities.
4. The capitalist system is based on the consumer’s demand, which encourages people to be as efficient, and good at whatever service they provide to out do their competition in order to get customers for their own business. To improve their companies efficiency and quality businesses will put profits into research and development which sometimes leads to scientific break throughs that often lead to a higher quality of and a stronger economy. Capitalism also causes income inequality. Another negative effect of capitalism is it encourages greed, so often businesses will reduce quality to make products cheap just to make larger profits.
5. Democracy is rule by the people; a government in which all citizens have an equal say in political decision.
6. The U.S is a federal republic, in which citizens vote for representatives that have common political interest as them to influence public policy (some positions are appointed by elected officials) in the government; citizens have a more indirect say in a republic than in a democracy.
7. The U.S. instituted democratic rule because the abuses of the British monarchy drove Colonists to fear and dislike the idea of one man having all that power, so the founding fathers created a republican system based checks and balances ultimately in the control of the people to insure that despotism wouldn’t ever occur in their new nation.
8. A republic offers people to make have a say in the affairs of the government in charge of them and letting the people have what they want. Issues can take a long time to be decided though because conflicting opinions between representatives can take a while to be resolved an the people don’t necessarily get their way anyways. Also officials are often influenced by the wealthy because they fund their campaigns, which often leads to crony capitalism too.
9. Point 1- Michael Moore encourages that the work place should be run like a democracy in which the all the workers own the company and have equal say instead of the unequal hierarchies that are common. He wants the country should adopt more socialistic policies.

2- He also targets the banks claiming they are wronging the American people and are just greed driven, for instance with their “dead peasants” policies, foreclosures, and taking a 700 billion dollar bailout from the tax payer’s money, amongst other grievances.

3- Moore makes it a point to reveal the crony capitalism that is going on with such proofs as the bailout, how the Treasury officials all worked at Goldman Sachs, and how Countrywide offered politicians special, better loans.

4- Moore encourages people to exercise their 1st amendment rights to confront the influence and power Wall Street has over Washington; he wants Americans to fight for more equal social standings.

Michael Moore uses isolated incidents of greed and corruption such as the privately owned correctional facility and he did not describe the nature of the foreclosures seen in the film and I am lead to believe that it was the mistakes of the homeowners hat lead to them loosing their houses; if you do not pay your mortgage your eviction is justified. Moore also tried to use humor in his film, which makes it seem like it’s a joke, loosing credibility when he shouldn’t.

1. Capitalism is and democracy are opposing ideas in the sense that democracy is about people being equal to each other and having an equal say while capitalism tends to have a hierarchy similar to a monarchy with the Coe at the top and less influential and more numerous participants as you descend down the chain of command.